

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of determining whether to decode a packet comprising:
determining a channel quality indication during a period of time;
5 receiving a packet during the period of time, wherein the received packet has a transport format;
determining whether to the decode the received packet based on the determined channel quality indication and the transport format.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
transmitting a negative acknowledgment when it is determined not to decode the packet.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining a second channel quality indication during a second period of time;
receiving a second packet during the second period of time, the second packet has a second transport format;
determining whether to jointly decode the packet and the second packet
20 based on the determined second channel quality indication and the second transport format.
- 25 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the determination of whether to jointly decode is also based on whether the second packet is a retransmission of the packet.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein if it is determined to decode the received packet, the method further comprises:

decoding the packet;

performing a packet integrity evaluation on the decoded packet; and

5 transmitting an acknowledgment if the packet integrity evaluation is successful; and

transmitting a negative acknowledgment if it is determined that the packet integrity evaluation fails.

10 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the transport format comprises a particular coding format and a particular modulation.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the determination of whether to decode the received packet comprises:

15 identifying a field in a table corresponding to the determined channel quality indication and the transport format, wherein the field indicates whether to decode the received packet.

8. An apparatus comprising:

20 a receiver which receives a packet with a transport format during a period of time; and

a processor which determines a channel quality indication during the period of time, and which determines whether to decode the received packet based on the determined channel quality indication and the transport format.

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9. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a transmitter which transmits a negative acknowledgement when it is determined not to decode the packet.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the receiver receives a second packet with a second transport format during a second period of time,
wherein the processor determines a second channel quality indication
5 during the second period of time, and which determines whether to jointly decode the packet and the second packet based on the determined second channel quality indication and the second transport format.
11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the determination of whether to
10 jointly decode is also based on whether the second packet is a retransmission of the packet.
12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the processor comprises a first processor which determines the channel quality indication, and a second
15 processor which determines whether to decode the received packet.
13. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:
a decoder which decodes the received packet when it is determined that
the received packet should be decoded.
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14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the decoder is a Turbo decoder.
15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor comprises the decoder.
- 25 16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the apparatus is a wireless radio transceiver.

17. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
a packet integrity evaluator which evaluates the integrity of the decoded packet, wherein the transmitter transmits an acknowledgment if the packet integrity evaluation is successful, and the transmitter transmits a negative acknowledgment if it is determined that the packet integrity evaluation fails.
18. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the transport format comprises a particular coding format and a particular modulation.
19. The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising:
a memory which stores a table, the table including a field in a table corresponding to the determined channel quality indication and the transport format, wherein the field indicates whether to decode the received packet.
20. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the apparatus operates according to High-Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA).
21. A computer-readable storage medium having stored therein one or more program instructions for causing a processor to determine whether to decode a packet by performing:
determining a channel quality indication during a period of time;
receiving a packet during the period of time, wherein the received packet has a transport format;
determining whether to the decode the received packet based on the determined channel quality indication and the transport format.
22. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein a negative acknowledgment is transmitted when it is determined not to decode the packet.

23. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the transport format comprises a particular coding format and a particular modulation.
- 5 24. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the determination of whether to decode the received packet comprises:
- identifying a field in a table corresponding to the determined channel quality indication and the transport format, wherein the field indicates whether to decode the received packet.